

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and
Education

Democratic Senior Whip

Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Healthcare Task Force Chair



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

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September 29, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I write to request that CalRecycle and other state agencies, as appropriate, work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and relevant county agencies to expeditiously cleanup the Panda International Trading fire site in Maywood, California.

On June 16, 2016, a fire destroyed the Panda International Trading facility in Maywood, California. A unified command team consisting of the USEPA, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to the fire and managed the subsequent residential cleanup. Due to the fire, approximately 300 residents neighboring the facility were evacuated and were temporarily relocated until their homes were deemed to be safe. While the unified command was able to respond quickly to extinguish the fire and clean up the impacted homes, the facility itself remains full of toxic and non-toxic debris, according to the USEPA. More than three months have passed since the devastating fire but, the cleanup of the facility itself has not yet begun.

Since the fire, my office has received several complaints from residents in the area about the odor emanating from the site, with some constituents also complaining of resulting headaches. According to relevant federal and county agencies, in order for USEPA to clean up the toxic debris, CalRecycle's involvement is essential to maximize interagency coordination for an effective cleanup.

Families of this area already face the high risk of exposure to hazardous toxins released by the Exide Technologies facility in neighboring Vernon. The prolonged cleanup of another nearby environmental incident in Maywood only amplifies the health hazards that these families must endure. I respectfully urge you to direct CalRecycle (and other relevant state agencies) to work with the USEPA and relevant local agencies to expeditiously cleanup this site. I thank you for your attention and consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille Roybal-Allard".

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress